COMIC SHOP NEWS™

1170

VICTORIAN UNDEAD™

SHERLOCK HOLMES VS ZOMBIES!

A NEW SIX-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
NOVEMBER 2009

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WILDSTORM WS™

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Mark Waid's Incorruptible

For a while there, it seemed like *Mark Waid* was developing a genuine affection for the bad guys. A few years after chronicling the story of a victorious cosmic menace in ***Empire***, Waid introduced readers to a superhero turned evil in ***Irredeemable***. But Waid isn't finished with heroes—in fact, he's about to chronicle the reformation of one of the world's most malevolent villains as he becomes a hero just when his world needs him the most.

Readers will meet the former Max Damage, reborn as Max Daring, in ***Incorruptible***, a new series from Boom Studios that actually has very strong links to Waid's sleeper hit ***Irredeemable***. "While you don't need to be reading ***Irredeemable*** to enjoy this new series, ***Incorruptible*** continues that complex study of caped morality at the end of the world," Managing Editor *Matt Gagnon* said. "Readers will be shown a shockingly different perspective of The Plutonian's world, where a super-villain, pushed by an insurmountable force, dares to be ***Incorruptible***. "

Mark Waid addressed the interrelationship of these series. "***Irredeemable*** is an ongoing series about what happens when the world's greatest super-hero, the Plutonian, decides to become the world's greatest super-villain. And up until now, in that series, all the other surviving heroes have been doing their utmost to contain the Plutonian. And ***Incorruptible*** happens in that same world, with those same stakes.

"Max Damage was one of Plutonian's worst enemies—but even he was never capable of the evil and carnage that characterize the Plutonian's turn to villainy. In a moment of epiphany, Max is genuinely horrified by what Plutonian has become—even villains like Max have people and things they want to protect against a mad god—and Max steps up to reverse his path, too, becoming a super-hero. Or at least *trying* to..."

Once Max reinvents himself as a superhero, he has to come up with a new name—and thus Max Damage becomes Max Daring, an incorruptible hero who is determined to atone for his earlier misdeeds and save the world from the evils of the Plutonian and any others who might follow in his footsteps.

So who is—or should we say *was*—Max Damage before he became the heroic Max Daring? What was he like as a villain--what were his powers, and what led him to explore a life of crime? "Telling Max Damage's origins would reveal too much about the first arc,"Waid said, "but his powers are fairly unique. The longer he stays awake, the tougher and stronger he gets, to the point where he becomes virtually indestructible. *But* like all of us, Max still needs sleep--so what no one but his sidekick knows is that the sleep cycle restores Max's vulnerability, and he stays vulnerable for his first hour or so awake. It's the only time he can enjoy the feel of a hot shower or the taste of good food or the thrill of furniture-breaking sex. Then, after that hour, he gradually begins to toughen up, becoming untouchable. Max doesn't say much--he's a very quiet man--but if he were to tell anyone his biggest secret, it's that the first hour of the day is the only hour he finds any real joy in living."

Is there a pivotal event that inspires Max's heroic transformation? "The destruction of Sky City by the Plutonian is what turned Max around," Waid said. "He was there, and he saw with his own eyes the destructive chaos of a crazed supergod in a way he never could have imagined it. And for the first time ever in his life, he realized that the end of the world in his lifetime was a very real possibility."

Max isn't alone in his heroic efforts: he's joined by a sidekick, Jailbait, who was also his sidekick prior to his reformation. What's the relationship like between these two? "Strained," Waid said. "Jailbait is Max's hot seventeen-year-old female sidekick, and she is *not* happy about his reform. She loved the criminal lifestyle. She loved the money. Frankly, she also loved the sex--which is *way* not happening now until she's of legal age, says Max."

How does the non-superpowered world feel about Max--do they trust him at all? "Nope—not a bit. I predict a very, *very* long road to public acceptance for Max," Waid said. "No one will ever believe that Max has gone straight. They'll always assume this is some master plot of his. So if the other heroes weren't so focused on the Plutonian, they might come after Max regardless."

However, Max does have one person who has faith that his reformation is legitimate. "Lieutenant Armadale is the one cop on the force who trusts Max when he says he's reformed," Waid said. "Not so much because Max is trustworthy, but because Armadale has his own skeletons in various closets and needs to believe that a man like Max *could* turn over a new leaf—because if Max can, maybe Armadale can, too."

In a way, it seems as if both series are built around a concept of cosmic balance—that for every good, there has to be a corresponding evil, and vice versa. Waid laughed at the suggesteion that this was an intentional aspect of the story, however, saying, "To some degree, you're reading it in—but keep reading, because that sounds pretty good! Honestly, though, it's less about portraying a cosmic balance as it is putting characters in circumstances so extreme that it forces them to make very unexpected choices."

Does Waid experience with heroes from Superman to Spider-Man make it easier for him to create a book like ***Incorruptible?*** "In a way, yes--because Max doesn't really know much about being a super-hero, so he has to be very scrupulous and be careful not to slide down a slippery slope. And I've learned a lot about scruples and where the lines are by writing superheroes."

Was ***Incorruptible*** always planned as a companion book for ***Irredeemable***, or did the concept for this develop after ***Irredeemable*** met with such success?

"The latter," Waid confirmed. "Honestly, I'm thrilled and amazed that ***Irredeemable*** has been this much of a hit—though we have to give lots and lots of credit to artist *Pete Krause*, colorist *Andrew Dalhouse*, and editor *Matt Gagnon*, who somehow keeps the trains running on time. But after ***Irredeemable*** became such a breakout hit, we wanted to follow up—and doing a flip-side book made perfect sense."

Will ***Irredeemable*** and ***Incorruptible*** complete Waid's exploration of this superhero universe, or will we see other books set in this world? "We could, but what I like about ***Incorruptible*** in contrast to ***Irredeemable*** is that it gives us a very street-level view of a world in which a superhero has gone mad and the effects that has on society. There's so much tumult happening in the Plutonian's world—fallout from his destructive rampages that's taking a major toll on the world's economy, its psyche, its very concept of God—I'd hoped to touch more on that with ***Irredeemable***, but as it's progressed, it's become a sort of rarified stage with its own internal story. ***Incorruptible*** is a broader view of the damage left in Plutonian's wake. If there are other consequences to be explored that feel just as rich as that, however, I'd be happy to expand this universe."

And if there *are* other books, is Waid willing to share this world with other creators? "If you read ***52***, you know I love collaboration," Waid said. "And that's all I'll say about that...for now."

Is it safe to assume that ***Irredeemable*** and ***Incorruptible*** are ongoing series, or do both have finite runs? "Oh, they're definitely ongoing series, both of 'em—you'll be surprised with some of the twists and turns they take, and the fun of writing a monthly book is being able to continually surprise the audience!"

See Max in action in mid-December with the release of ***Incorruptible #1***, a $3.99 comic with cover art by *Tim Sale* and *John Cassaday*.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Endgame Spawns a Liefeld/McFarlane Collaboration

Apparently ***Image United*** isn't the only collaboration in the works with members of Image's founding team: *Todd McFarlane* has confirmed that he is enlisting *Rob Liefeld* to join him on the artistic honors for ***Spawn #196***, the conclusion of the "Endgame" story arc.

"I was looking for good artistic help, and remembered inking over Rob on his ***New Mutant*** covers back in the Marvel days, and most recently a little bit of ***Image United***," McFarlane said. "I thought it would be a fun experiment to see what Capullo layouts, Liefeld pencils, and my inks looked like together on a handful of pages."

In the final installment of "Endgame," reporter Marc Rosen connects the miracle patient stories to the new Spawn, Jim Downing, as detectives Sam, Twitch and Rowand discover the association between Downing's awakening, Bill Winston's suicide and the Nortego crime syndicate.

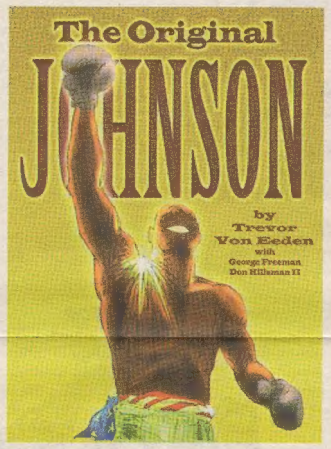
Spawn #196 is slated for late November release.

IDW Unveils Heavyweight Project

Thus far, IDW's biographical offerings have been limited to books focusing on Presidential candidates *Barack Obama* and *John McCain* (along with a followup volume chronicling President Obama's early days in office). This winter, though, the company will look a hundred years back into history for a graphic novel biography of *Jack Johnson*, the first black heavyweight world champion.

The Original Johnson chronicles the life of the "Galveston Giant," telling the gripping story of one man's fight for equality. Veteran comics creator *Trevor Von Eeden* captures the essence of a nation's struggle through the lens of one of the best boxers of all time.

"We're very excited to be bringing Trevor's work to the public," ComicMix editor-in-chief *Mike Gold* said. "This is one of the most meticulously researched graphic novels ever produced. It's an important story on a great many levels: not just boxing history, but America's evolving attitudes toward race at a time when lynching remained all too common."



The first son of former slaves, *Jack Johnson* would come to embody the struggle against racism that still plagues society today when his 1908 victory over a white boxer for the heavyweight world championship sparked racial clashes across the county. Johnson became an international celebrity and a major inspiration for generations of people fighting discrimination and inequality.

"This will be the first time that this remarkable man's story will be told in a comics format, and the first time that it will have been told by a black man," Von Eeden said. "I'm telling the story of *Jack Johnson* my own way, the way this important story needs to be told. I've been working on ***The Original Johnson*** for over twelve years, doing an intense amount of research and honing my artistic skills. It's great to see that the book will finally reach its fruition."

Published by IDW in conjunction with ComicMix, ***The Original Johnson***, a 240-page two-volume graphic novel, is slated for December release.

CSNsider

•Three surprise changes involving the Image mega-event ***Image United***, a six-issue all-star project involving the founders of Image and their best-known creations. First, Image has changed plans and is allowing stores to order each of the six covers on an individual basis rather than offering them in an equal mix. And second, the seventh Image founder, *Jim Lee*, is also taking part in this event. While he's not illustrating any of the interior pages of this mega-event, he will supply a special cover image—and his art will also be featured on the 1-for-100 black and white incentive cover. The third change is much less dramatic: Image is also offering a Blank Cover Edition of ***Image United #1*** for collectors who'd like to try to get an original sketch cover from one of the contributors—or who'd like to illustrate their very own take on Image's star heroes.

•Looks like the readers campaign to convince DC to return ***Wonder Woman*** to its original numbering with the 600th issue was a rousing success: look for an announcement regarding ***Wonder Woman #600*** in the very near future!

•***The Comics Journal*** is moving to a semi-annual schedule with its 300th issue, with each volume sized and formatted to fit its content. This change seems to be the next phase in a move towards a more book-like format—a move that began when Fantagraphics changed ***TCJ*** to a squarebound magazine with higher quality paper.

•In a recent appearance on ***The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson***, acclaimed author *Salman Rushdie* said he was "kind of keen" on the idea of writing a graphic novel. "When I was a kid I was a real comic book nut," Rushdie said. "I could tell you a lot about superheroes."

•Nickelodeon has acquired global intellectual property rights to *Kevin Eastman & Peter Laird's* ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles***. However, Mirage will have the rights to publish up to eighteen comics a year based on the current Mirage Universe material, but they will not have the rights to do trade paperbacks. Nickelodeon could also license out the Turtles to other publishers, although they would have to produce TMNT reboots that don't link to the current Mirage Universe.

•*Frank Cho & Doug Murray* have chosen the artist for their upcoming Image SF series ***50 Girls 50***. The talent search is completed, and the winner is *Axel Medellin*, "Judging was very difficult," Murray said. "We had to

SPIDER-MAN
BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER
I HELPED YOU--LIKE YOU ASKED!
NOW-- WHERE'S MY DAUGHTER?
SURE, SANDMAN, I--UH-OH!
SOMEONE SET OFF AN ALARM!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 11-12
WHILE...
I'VE GOTTA FIND SOMETHING NEWSWORTHY IN THE CITY TODAY!
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grade the entries on multiple counts—the fidelity to the model sheets produced by Frank, the story-telling displayed, the quality of the layouts—all of these came into play... Frank and I went back and forth till the very last minute on who the winner should be, with Axel beating out the competition." You'll be able to see Medellin's work in early 2010, when ***50 Girls 50*** is slated to debut—and in addition, Medellin will join Cho on Marvel's ***New Ultimates*** series, working off Cho's character and world designs.

•Marvel has added two variants to the ***Siege: The Cabal mix*** the ***Siege: The Cabal 1-for-50 Variant*** (SEP098227) and the ***Siege: The Cabal 1-for-75 David Finch Sketch Variant*** (SEP098228); both of them are slated to arrive in stores on 12/3.

•Looking to add Marvel's ***The Stand: American Nightmares Premium HC*** to your *Stephen King* bookshelf? Then you need to latch onto a copy at your friendly neighborhood comic shop, where it's an exclusive offering through early January of 2010. (Pretty good gift idea for the *Stephen King* fan, huh?...)

•*Barry Kitson* has been replaced by *Nick Dragotta* as artist of the lead story in ***Web of Spider-Man #3***.

Back to Press

•***Blackest Night #2 3rd PRinting*** (SEP098222), featuring a recolored version of the original Ivan Reis-Oclair Albert cover, in stores 11/25.

•***Dark Reign—The List: Punisher 2nd Printing*** (SEP098111), in stores 12/3.

•***Dark Reign—The List: Wolverine 2nd Printing*** (SEP098110), in stores 12/3.

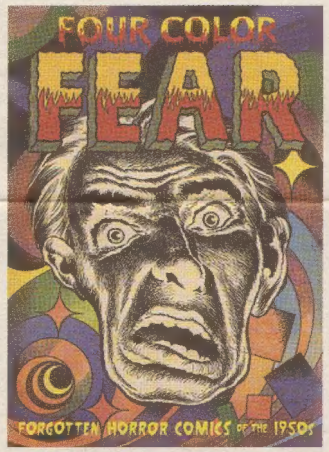
Six from Sadowski

Greg Sadowski, comics historian and editor known and admired for his companion volumes ***B. Krigstein*** and ***B. Krigstein Comics*** (as well as the recently-released ***Supermen: The First Wave of Comic Book Heroes 1936-1941***), is returning to the early days of comics for six more volumes spotlighting some of the field's classic pre-Silver Age comics and/or creators.

"Greg has written one of the landmark cartoonist biographies (and only the first half yet!) with ***B. Krigstein***, and the collections of comics from the '40s and '50s that he's edited for us — ***B. Krigstein Comics*** and ***Supermen!***, to date — have been meticulously assembled, with an eye toward selection, flow, and accompanying historical text. We're pleased that he's got such an ambitious agenda ahead," Fantagraphics Publisher Gary Groth said.

The books will be released one per season, beginning with ***Four Color Fear: Forgotten Horror comics of the 1950s***, slated for June 2010 release. This volume is produced with fellow comics historian *John Benson*. This full-color 304-page edition collects the finest non-EC horror comics of the pre-code era (1950-54)—comics originally published by such companies as Ajax-Farrell, Atlas, Charlton, Fawcett, Quality, and Standard. Featured are comic book legends such as *Jack Cole, Steve Ditko, George Evans, Frank Frazetta, Alex Toth, Al Williamson, Basil Wolverton, Wally Wood, L.B. Cole, Matt Fox*, and many others.

"In these types of compilations, I try to provide a service to the reader who has neither the time, inclination, nor bank account to purchase and sift through hundreds of golden age comic books to glean off that precious 10% — the most distinctive and worthwhile examples from a particular genre," Sadowski said of ***Four Color Fear***.



Following in the fall of 2010 will be a second book, ***Setting the Standard: Alex Toth at Standard Comics***. "It's hard to overstate the influence of *Alex Toth* on the art of comic books," Sadowski said. "Toth was from that first generation who grew up reading comic books, and he came to the medium armed with enough discipline, talent, and sheer love and respect for the medium to create a technique free of condescension, artifice, or shortcuts. His work at Standard first established him as the 'comic book artist's artist.'"In addition to rarely-seen Standard comics tales, the book also offers a biographical sketch and an essay on Toth's approach to comic book storytelling, based heavily on his interviews and written correspondence.

In the works for release in 2011 and later are:

•***The Road to Plastic Man: The Golden Age Comics of Jack Cole 1937-1941:*** "From his earliest days in comics, *Jack Cole* was one intense artist/writer," Sadowski said. "It just took him a few years to fully incorporate humor into his work, so this book tracks his artistic evolution leading up to ***Plastic Man***. The book begins with early "big foot" work for Centaur's ***Funny Pages***, then gives way to raucous adventure and crime stories before honing in on the nefarious Claw, the boy inventor Dickie Dean, and proto-superheroes the Comet, Daredevil, and Silver Streak.

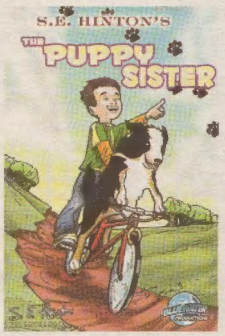
•***Away from Home: EC Artists at Other Companies:*** "This book collects the best non-EC art by the EC stable of artists, in other words, the cream of the 1950s crop. A lot of these guys were pals and they often collaborated, so there will be a healthy sampling of these fraternal efforts," Sadowski said. Among the artists spotlighted in this collection are EC regulars *Reed Crandall, Jack Davis, George Evans, Will Elder, Al Feldstein, Jack Kamen, Bernard Krigstein, Harvey Kurtzman, Graham Ingels, Joe Orlando, John Severin, Basil Wolverton, Wallace Wood*, and *Al Williamson*, as well as that of part-timers *Frank Frazetta, Roy G. Krenkel, Alex Toth*, and *Angelo Torres*.

•***Creeping Death from Neptune: Basil Wolverton's Sci-Fi & Horror Comics 1938-1955:*** "Many of Wolverton's comics have been reprinted in a number of formats, but for years I've been waiting for a full-color compilation of his serious golden age work. Finally I decided to do it myself. Like the Cole book, this one is a no-brainer," Sadowski said. This edition begins with Wolverton's early features Space Patrol and Meteor Martin, then continues with Spacehawk before ending with the skewed master's gloriously repugnant horror comics.

•***The Comic Book Frankenstein: The Monster According to Dick Briefer:*** "*Dick Briefer* had been involved in comic books since its earliest days," Sadowski said. "He was one of the first to work at *Will Eisner* and *Jerry Iger's* comic book studio in the mid-1930s. Like Eisner, Cole, and Wolverton, Briefer was responsible for the complete package: writing, layouts, pencils and inks, and often the lettering. He did his best work on ***Frankenstein***, and this compilation should restore his status as one of the form's major pioneers." While the early stories from the 1940s have a clever, light, humorous edge to them, the last stories take on a more horrifying tone, reflecting the industry trend in the early 1950s.

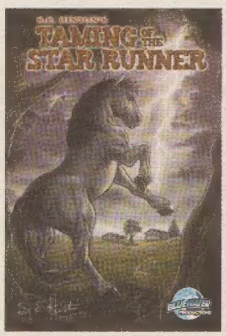
Bluewater Offers a Hinton the Company's Future Offerings

Millions of readers know her as the author of ***The Outsiders, Tex, Rumble Fish,*** and ***That Was Then, This Is Now***. But next year, readers will also know *S.E Hinton* as the author of graphic novels—both adaptations and original works—for Bluewater Productions.



Bluewater will launch their line of Hinton graphic novels with an adaptation of her popular young adult novel ***Taming of the Star Runner***, the story of a tough, cool city kid who changes when he's sent to stay with his uncle on a ranch in the country. This will be followed by an adaptation of her children's book ***The Puppy Sister***, and an exclusive new young adult title that Hinton will create specifically for the publisher.

"I grew up reading *S.E. Hinton's* books, so to bring these to a graphic novel format is a dream come true for me", publisher *Darren G. Davis* said. "The best part is getting to work with Hinton one on one. We have talked about the new title, which is on the lines of her iconic work ***The Outsiders***."



Taming of the Star Runner is slated to debut in the spring of 2010, followed by the summer release of ***Puppy Sister***; no release date has been set for the as-yet-untitled original work. The creative teams on the books will be *Don Smith, CW Cooke, Guilherme Rafid*, and *Yasir Fajardo*.

CALLING ALL CARS! PROCEED TO KNICKERBOCKER BANK--
WHAT'S THAT?
--TO STOP ROBBERY IN PROGRESS BY THE SANDMAN!
JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!!
HOW COME YOU LISTEN TO POLICE CALLS?
GOTTA DO SOMETHING TO STAY AWAKE AT THIS JOB!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 11-13
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CSN TOP COMI

ANGELUS #1 (OF 6)

Ron Marz (W); Stjepan Sejic (A)
(Top Cow/Image OCT090434 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Former Witchblade Dani Baptiste returns home to New Orleans as she struggles to come to terms with her new role as the Angelus, the human bearer of the primal force of Light... and the adversary of The Darkness.

Why Should You Care?

Top Cow completes its metaphysical trinity just in time for a major summer event. Now's your chance to find out who the Angelus is and how she fits into the scheme of things.

BLACKEST NIGHT #6 (OF 8)

Geoff Johns (W); Ivan Reis & Oclair Albert (A)
(DC OCT090176 $3.99)

BLACKEST NIGHT: JSA #1 (OF 3)

James Robinson (W); Eddy Barrows & Ruy Jose (A)
(DC OCT090185 $2.99)

BLACKEST NIGHT: THE FLASH #1 (OF 3)

Geoff Johns (W); Scott Kolins (A)
(DC OCT090183 $2.99)

BLACKEST NIGHT: WONDER WOMAN #1 (OF 3)

Greg Rucka (W); Nicola Scott (W)
(DC OCT090187 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

At last, we learn the secrets of Nekron, the being responsible for ***Blackest Night***. Meanwhile, members of the Justice Society take on their own undead counterparts, the Flashes of two cities take on the undead Rogues, and Wonder Woman confronts the undead Maxwell Lord, who's seeking revenge and retribution against the Amazing Amazon.

Why Should You Care?

As ***Blackest Night*** reaches a pivotal point, a trio of new miniseries expand the series even further—and it culminates in the December 30th release of ***Blackest Night #6***, the *only* all-original comic slated for release on that date (but this one is well worth making the trip to your friendly neighborhood comic shop!).

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER: WILLOW ONE SHOT

Joss Whedon (W); Karl Moline (A)
(Dark Horse OCT090009 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

Willow Rosenberg—and her amazing new abilities that include flight, teleportation, and perhaps even immortality—are the focus of this standalone tale.

Why Should You Care?

Buffy creator *Joss Whedon* returns to one of his favorite characters—and he's joined by artist *Karl Moline*, co-creator of Whedon's ***Fray*** series and its future-Slayer star.

CAPTAIN AMERICA: WHO WILL WIELD THE SHIELD?

Ed Brubaker (W); Butch Guice (A)
(Marvel OCT090468 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Steve Rogers is back... but where does that leave Bucky Barnes, the current Captain America? Is Bucky willing to return to the role of partner... or Winter Soldier? Or will there be room for two Captain Americas?

Why Should You Care?

Just in time for the miniseries that ends ***Dark Reign*** and the Age of Heroes that follows, Marvel settles the Captain America dilemma for once and for all.

DAYTRIPPER #1 (OF 10)

Gabriel Bá & Fábio Moon (W/A)
(Vertigo/DC OCT090290 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Brás de Oliva Domingos is an obituary writer with a famous father, a career he hates, and tons of questions. How does a person become a successful writer? How does a man get out of his father's shadow? But those concerns will dwarf the surprise he'll find in the first issue—a twist neither he nor the readers will see coming!

Why Should You Care?

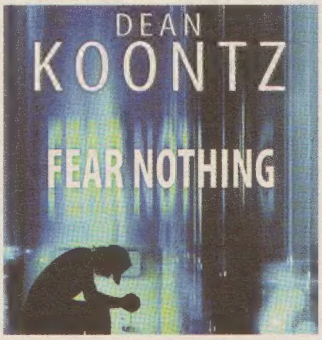
Brazil's internationally acclaimed wonder twins—the men acclaimed as two of ***Entertainment Weekly's*** Top 100 stars to watch—launch their first Vertigo series, a character-driven tale set in their native country.

DEAN KOONTZ'S FEAR NOTHING GN VOL 1

Dean Koontz (W); Bob Gill (A)
(Dabel Brothers NOV090707 $14.99)

What's the Scoop?

Christopher Snow, a man born with a rare genetic disorder that leaves him extremely vulnerable to the light, is a "night person" to the extreme. So, when he witnesses a murder one dark evening, he uses his knowledge of the night world to find the killer.



Why Should You Care?

The Dabel Brothers reunite with best-selling author *Dean Koontz* to present an original graphic novel based on one of his most popular novels.

FALL OF HULKS: ALPHA

Jeff Parker (W); Paul Pelletier (A)
(Marvel OCT090514 $3.99)

FALL OF HULKS: GAMMA

Jeph Loeb (W); John Romita Jr. (A)
(Marvel OCT090516 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Hulk faces a cabal of his most malevolent adversaries, including MODOK, the Leader, the Mad Thinker, Egghead, the Red Ghost, and Doctor Doom—a group that has analyzed every victory and every defeat in the Marvel Universe to create the perfect battle plan to launch the Fall of the Hulks. But is it possible that their plan involves turning the Hulks against one another?

I THOUGHT SANDMAN WAS GOING STRAIGHT!
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I WAS WRONG!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 11-14
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CS: DECEMBER

Why Should You Care?

Planet Hulk... World War Hulks... Those gamma-irradiated guys 'n' gals have been at the center of some of Marvel's biggest events in the past few years—and it all comes to a head here!

GARTH ENNIS' BATTLEFIELDS: HAPPY VALLEY #1 (OF 3)

Garth Ennis (W); Paul Jason Holden (A)
(Dynamite OCT090835 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

A young Australian airman, brought in to command a bomber crew in their aerial attack on the industrial heartland of the Ruhr, learns that his battle-hardened bunch has little patience for new boys who haven't earned their wings.

Why Should You Care?

Garth Ennis has proven his skill in a variety of genres, but his war stories stand as some of the best work of his career—so any project that takes him back to war is cause for celebration!

IMAGE UNITED #2 (OF 6)

Robert Kirkman (W); Erik Larsen, Rob Liefeld, Todd McFarlane, Whilce Portacio, Marc Silvestri, & Jim Valentino (A)
(Image OCT090353 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The greatest threat the Image Universe has ever faced makes his first move toward world domination—but what dire events will his actions spawn?

Why Should You Care?

The most amazing artist jam in comics history continues in this series that pits the Image heroes against the original Spawn—and every panel of each character's appearance is illustrated by the artist who created him!

INCORRUPTIBLE #1

Mark Waid (W); Neil Edwards (A)
(Boom OCT090784 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Max Damage was one of the most reviled super-villains in the world until the day the Plutonian destroyed Sky City. On that day, the former villain reinvented himself as Max Daring... and now he has become Incorruptible.

Why Should You Care?

Mark Waid offers an intriguing glimpse into the flip side of his smash hit series ***Irredeemable,*** revealing just how difficult it can be to atone for an ignominious past.

JSA ALL STARS #1

Matthew Sturges (W); Freddie Williams II (A)
(DC OCT090229 $3.99)

JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA #34

Bill Willingham (W); Travis Moore & Dan Green (A)
(DC OCT090228 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the aftermath of the Justice Society's devastating split, a new team is formed—and that means a new home base, new group dynamics... and new villains! Meanwhile, the original Justice Society struggles to pick up the pieces at their new, temporary home base, hoping to prevent a repeat of the recent infiltration of their ranks.

Why Should You Care?

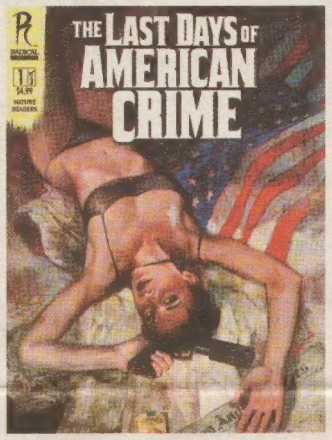
Frequent *Bill Willingham* collaborator *Matthew Sturges* takes half of the JSA in an all-new direction, while Willingham remains the main in charge of the original title—and that guarantees close coordination as each writer takes his part of the JSA in new directions.

LAST DAYS OF AMERICAN CRIME #1 (OF 3)

Rick Remender (W); Greg Tocchini (A)
(Radical OCT091056 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

On the eve of an ambitious government plan to use technology to make it impossible for anyone to knowingly commit unlawful acts, a career criminal embarks on an ambitious plan to commit the last crime in American history.



Why Should You Care?

Rick Remender, best known for his work on ***Fear Agent, End League,*** and ***The Punisher,*** launches this edgy SF-noir limited series in conjunction with artist young gun *Greg Tocchini,* artist of the ***Ion*** limited series and Marvel's adaptation of ***The Odyssey.***

SIEGE: CABAL

Brian Bendis (W); Michael Lark (A)
(Marvel OCT090467 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Readers have already met the members of the evil Cabal, the villains responsible for manipulating things behind the scenes in order to put Norman Osborn in his current position of power. But who's the power behind the Cabal? And what happens when the members of the Cabal began to confront one another.

Why Should You Care?

This revelatory oneshot by *Brian Bendis & Michael Lark* will pave the way for January's ***The Siege,*** a four-part series that will bring the ***Secret Invasion-Dark Reign*** saga to a startling conclusion.

WHAT IF? ASTONISHING X-MEN

Jim McCann & Matteo Casali (W); David Yardin, Kai Slpannuth, & Mike Getty (A)
(Marvel OCT090545 $3.99)

WHAT IF? DAREDEVIL VS ELEKTRA

Karl Bollers (W); Rafael Kayanan (A)
(Marvel OCT090547 $3.99)

WHAT IF? SECRET INVASION

Kevin Grevioux, Karl Bollers, & Chris Acosta (W); Pow Rodrix & Larry Stroman (A)
(Marvel OCT090548 $3.99)

WHAT IF? SPIDER-MAN HOUSE OF M

Sean McKeever & Frank Tieri (W); Dave Ross & Brian Haberlin (A)
(Marvel OCT090549 $3.99)

WHAT IF? WORLD WAR HULK

Mike Raicht & Michael Gallagher (W); Lucio Parrillo & Patrick Spaziante (A)
(Marvel OCT090546 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Marvel offers thought-provoking alternate-history looks at pivotal Marvel events—some as old as the death of Elektra, some as recent as the outcome of Secret Invasion.

TELL YOUR STOOGE TO SET MY LITTLE GIRL FREE, BIGTIME-- OR YOU'VE HAD IT!
I-I CAN'T, SANDMAN!
WHEN YOU GRABBED ME-- YOU CRUSHED MY CELL PHONE!
THEN LET'S GO, BEFORE THE COPS COME!
THAT'S WHY I SECRETLY BROKE MY PHONE, YOU STUPID CLOD!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 11/19
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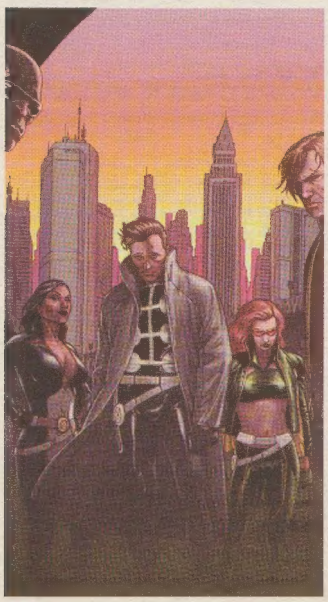
Why Should You Care?
Marvel's every-December ***What If?*** events have become winter highlights, keeping this fascinating "imaginary story" franchise alive with fresh, intriguing twists on established Marvel history.

X-FACTOR #200

Peter David (W); Bing Cansino (A)
(Marvel OCT090572 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?
X-Factor has relocated to New York—and their first client in the Big Apple is none other than Franklin Richards, whose mother has disappeared (but isn't that her power?). Franklin wants the best detectives that he can find to track her down... but for some reason, Reed doesn't seem interested in cooperating.

Why Should You Care?
Peter David's cult-fave mutant series gets a numeric reboot, a new focus, and new setting right in the middle of Marvel's most superhero-centric city.



Check 'Em Out: Books You *Should* Be Reading

ARCHIE #604

(Archie OCT090697 $2.50)

In the first three installments of this look into the future of the Riverdale Gang, *Michael Uslan & Stan Goldberg* explored a reality in which Archie and Veronica were wed. Now they continue to look at the flip side of the love triangle: a future in which Archie marries Betty. For anyone who's ever enjoyed an Archie comic, this is a must-read look at what the future might hold.

EMPOWERED ONE SHOT

(Dark Horse OCT090013 $3.99)

Writer/artist *Adam Warren* presents the first-ever comics-sized standalone oneshot starring the costumed crimefighter with a less-than-ideal superhero name and a less-than-perfect superhero career. If you've never sampled the delightful graphic novels, here's your most affordable opportunity!

JONAH HEX #50

(DC OCT090226 $3.99)

Guest artist *Darwyn Cooke* joins *Justin Gray & Jimmy Palmiotti* for ***Jonah Hex's*** half-a-hundred celebration. In this standalone tale, Jonah Hex discovers a secret being kept by Tallulah Black that could change everything Hex is about.

KING SPECIAL EDITION HC

(Fantagraphics OCT090906 $34.99)

Ho Che Anderson's landmark biography of *Martin Luther King*, out of print since 2006, is back in a revised and expanded edition that includes nearly a hundred pages of never-before-seen extras.

NEXT ISSUE PROJECT #2 (SILVER STREAK COMICS #24)

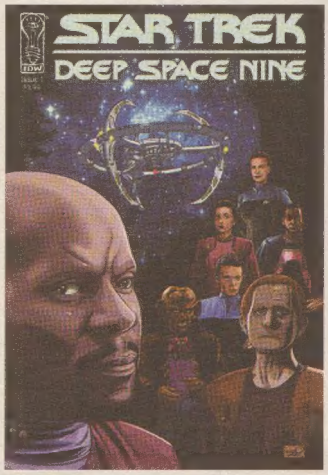
(Image OCT090364 $3.99)

Once again, *Erik Larsen* and his friends—including *Paul Grist, Alan Weiss, Michael T. Gilbert, & Steve Horton*—present the "next issue" of a long-ago-cancelled Golden Age comics series—this one featuring, among other characters, the Golden Age Daredevil.

PILOT SEASON: DEMONIC #1

(Top Cow/Image OCT090446 $2.99)

Robert Kirkman continues his string of Pilot Season concept projects with a new occult adventure series illustrated by *Joe Benitez*—and you know that, if it's written by Kirkman, it's gonna be good!



STAR TREK DEEP SPACE 9: FOOL'S GOLD #1

(IDW OCT090977 $3.99)

After far too long an absence, Captain Sisko and the crew of the Deep Space Nine are back in action in an original IDW series that investigates a sudden influx of thieves, treasure-seekers, bounty-hunters, and other less-than-desirable visitors to the station.

TRANSFORMERS: BUMBLEBEE #1

(IDW OCT090954 $3.99)

Zander Cannon writes the first-ever Bumblebee miniseries that finds Bumblebee accepting an opportunity to improve the Autobots' reputation... but the job will have its unique challenges!

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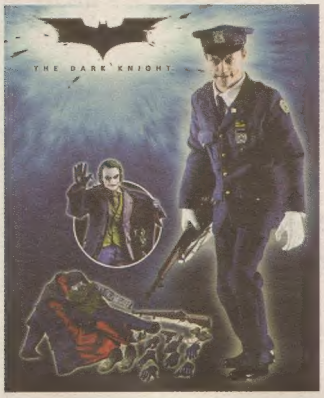
Hot Commodities: December's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

BATMAN FAMILY MULTI PART STATUE PART 3

(DC Direct MAY090279 $150.00)

This statue, which features Batwoman and Commissioner Gordon, also includes the third segment of the Batman statue that completes the scene when combined with the prior statues in the series.



HOT TOYS DARK KNIGHT POLICEMAN JOKER 1/6 SCALE FIGURE

(DC Direct MAY090273 $195.00)

This figure, featuring the Joker dressed in a Gotham City police uniform with hat, Gotham City police badge and shoes, utilizes a newly developed technology: the Parallel Eyeball Rolling System (PERS), which features eyeballs with colored translucent iris and simultaneous positionable eyeball function, allowing the eyes to move in all directions, much like human eyes. The Joker MMS DX stands approximately twelve inches tall and features the Hot Toys True type body with over thirty-five points of articulation.

SHADOW STATUE

(Elektric Tiki SEP091413 $199.99)

Ruben Procopio sculpts this iconic interpretation of the classic pulp hero. Each 13" tall statue, depicting the Shadow with guns drawn, includes a full size replica of the Shadow's mysterious ring.

TRINITY BOOKENDS

(DC Direct MAY090291 $325.00)

Designed by *Mark Bagley* and sculpted by *Dave Cortes*. this three-part bookend seat features Superman and Wonder Woman anchoring each side, while Batman poses in a bonus center piece.

Collected Cool: December's Best Reprint Volumes

CHRONICLES OF KULL TP VOL 1: KING COMES RIDING

(Dark Horse AUG090015 $18.95)

CHRONICLES OF SOLOMON KANE TP VOL 1

(Dark Horse AUG090016 $18.95)

Robert E. Howard fans get a heaping helping of Howard heroes this month as Dark Horse offers one volume collecting Kull stories from ***Creatures on the Loose #10, Monsters on the Prowl #16,*** and ***Kull the Conqueror #s 1-9,*** and a second collecting Solomon Kane tales from ***Marvel Premiere #33 -34*** and ***Solomon Kane #s 1-6.***

COMPLETE WORLD WAR ROBOT HC

(IDW OCT090997 $29.99)

Ashley Wood's World War Robot saga is collected in this single volume compendium.

KISS KOMPENDIUM TP

(Collins OCT090822 $75.00)

This is a must-have for fans of the overly-made-up rock group, as it collects all KISS comic books from Marvel, Image, Dark Horse, and others into a full-color, oversized collector's compilation.

MARVEL MASTERWORKS: NICK FURY AGENT OF SHIELD HC VOL 2

(Marvel JUL090585 $54.99)

It's a Steranko fan's dream volume: this hardcover collects Nick Fury tales from ***Strange Tales #s 154-168*** and ***Nick Fury, Agent of SHIELD #s 1-3.***

SHOWCASE PRESENTS WONDER WOMAN TP VOL 3

(DC SEP090170 $17.99)

Presenting nineteen issues worth of remarkable Wonder Woman adventures by *Robert Kanigher, Ross Andru, & Mike Esposito.*

TOMB OF DRACULA OMNIBUS HC VOL 2

(Marvel MAY090564 $99.99)

Marvel presents another heaping helping of *Gene Colan*-illustrated vampire melodrama from ***Tomb of Dracula #s 32-70, Giant Size Dracula #5*** and ***Dr. Strange #14.***

FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

DRAWING DOWN THE MOON: ART OF CHARLES VESS HC

(Dark Horse AUG090029 $39.95)

This 200-page volume spotlights thirty years of *Charles Vess's* remarkable fantasy-infused artwork that echoes with undertones of illustration's golden age.

ED HANNIGAN COVERED

(Marvel OCT090589 $5.99)

Through special arrangement with the Hero Initiative, Marvel is offering ***Ed Hannigan: Covered,*** a massive 48-page collection of Ed's covers, designs he created for

other artists, and even rare glimpses at licensing and merchandising art Ed did. Best of all, proceeds benefit Hannigan, who is battling multiple sclerosis.

MAXIMUM BLACK SC VOL 1: ART OF TIM BRADSTREET

(Desperado OCT090872 $24.95)

This collection of illustrations by Eisner Award-nominated illustrator *Tim Bradstreet* spotlights his first decade in the industry. Gorgeous black and white illustrations throughout chronicle Bradstreet's early days illustrating RPG's, trading cards, comics covers, and his breakthrough work on White Wolf's ***Vampire: The Masquerade. Maximum Black*** also features 16 full-color pages, plus rare glimpses of Bradstreet's long-awaited ***Red Sky Diary.***

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